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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Please cancel claim 7.

Please cancel claim 8.

9. (previously amended) An isolated DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 4 which codes for the *Bacillus* sp 720/1 xylanase precursor or a modified sequence derived from this sequence.

10. (previously amended) An isolated DNA molecule comprising the *Bacillus* sp 720/2 xylanase gene as illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 10.

11. (previously amended) The isolated DNA molecule according to Claim 32, wherein said DNA molecule comprises a promoter having the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 26 derived from the gene which codes for *Bacillus pumilus* B12 PRL xylanase and a presequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 27 which codes for the signal peptide of *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase.

12. (currently amended) An expression vector or chromosomal integration vector comprising the DNA molecule according to Claim 8, 9, 10, 11, 32 or 33.

Claims 13-15 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A transformed strain comprising the DNA molecule according to Claim 8, 9, 10, 11, 32 or 33.

16. (previously amended) A transformed strain comprising the expression vector or chromosomal integration vector according to Claim 12, 13 or 14.

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17. (previously amended) The transformed strain according to Claim 15 or 16, wherein said strain is a *Bacillus* strain.

18. (previously amended) The transformed strain according to Claim 17, wherein said strain is a *Bacillus licheniformis* or *Bacillus pumilus* strain.

Claims 19-24 (canceled)

25. (previously amended) A promoter comprising the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 26, wherein said promoter is derived from the gene which codes for *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase.

26. (previously amended) A presequence comprising the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 27 which codes for the signal peptide of *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase.

27. (previously amended) An expression system which can be used for the production of a polypeptide, comprising:

- a) a promoter comprising the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 26 derived from the gene which codes for *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase,
- b) a sequence coding for a signal peptide, and
- c) a sequence encoding the polypeptide.

28. (previously amended) An expression system which can be used for the production of a polypeptide comprising:

- a) a promoter;
- b) a presequence having the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 27 which codes for the signal peptide of *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase, and
- c) a sequence encoding the polypeptide.

29. (previously amended) An expression system which can be used for the production of a polypeptide comprising:

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- a) a promoter having the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 26 derived from the gene which codes for *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase;
- b) a presequence having the sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 27 which codes for the signal peptide of *Bacillus pumilus* PRL B12 xylanase,
- c) a sequence encoding the polypeptide, and
- d) a terminator sequence.

30. (original) The expression system according to Claim 27, 28 or 29, wherein the polypeptide corresponds to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 which codes for *Bacillus* sp. 720/1 xylanase.

Please cancel claim 31.

32. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated DNA molecule of claim ~~8~~, wherein said DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

33. (original) The isolated DNA molecule of claim 9; wherein said DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

34. (original) The expression system according to Claim 27, 28 or 29, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a protease, a lipase, a xylanase, a cellulase, an amylase and a pullulanase.

35. (original) The expression system according to Claim 34, wherein said polypeptide is a xylanase.